

IN THE CLAIMS

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method for reducing excess residual process alcohol in valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process alcohol comprising the step of contacting valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process alcohol with a humid gas air having a relative humidity of at least about 15% at ambient pressure.
2. *(Cancelled)*
3. *(Cancelled)*
4. *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein the humid air has a relative humidity of at least about 50%.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the humid air has a relative humidity of at least about 75%.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is static.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the contacting is dynamic.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the contacting is in a fluidized bed apparatus.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein, after the exposing step, the residual process alcohol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is less than about 5000 ppm on a weight basis.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the residual process alcohol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is about 1000 ppm or less on a weight basis.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the process alcohol is ethanol.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein the process alcohol is *iso*-propanol.
13. A method for reducing excess residual process *iso*-propanol in valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process *iso*-propanol comprising the step of contacting valacyclovir hydrochloride having excess residual process *iso*-propanol with humid air at ambient pressure in a fluidized bed apparatus, wherein the relative humidity of the air is at least about 15%.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the relative humidity of the air is at least about 50%.
15. The method of claim 13 wherein the residual *iso*-propanol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is about 5000 ppm or less on a weight basis.
16. The method of claim 15 wherein the residual *iso*-propanol in the exposed valacyclovir hydrochloride is about 1000 ppm or less on a weight basis.
17. A method for reducing to about 1000 ppm on a weight basis or less the residual process alcohol in valacyclovir hydrochloride having greater than 1000 ppm on a weight basis residual process alcohol comprising the step of contacting, at ambient pressure, the valacyclovir hydrochloride having greater than 1000 ppm on a weight basis residual process alcohol with humid gas having a relative humidity of at least about 15%.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein the humid gas has a relative humidity of at least about 50%.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the contacting is in a fluidized bed apparatus.